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Chairman: Ms. Anguiano Rodriguez (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Mexico)

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In the absence of the Chairman, Ms. Anguiano Rodriguez (Mexico), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 32: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Thomson** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania; the candidate countries Croatia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; and, in addition, Liechtenstein, Norway, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that United Nations peacekeeping had evolved considerably since the Brahimi recommendations of 2000. The past two and a half years, in particular, had seen an unprecedented surge in activity. Five new United Nations peacekeeping operations and the reinforcement of existing missions had doubled the number of troops and police deployed to almost 70,000, and the figure continued to rise as the United Nations Mission in the Sudan deployed. The European Union commended the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on the manner in which it had dealt with the surge in activity, in partnership with troop and police contributors. The European Union also reaffirmed its own enduring commitment to the maintenance of peace, both through its financial contribution of over 40 per cent of the assessed peacekeeping budget and through its deployment of troops and police to peace missions.

2. The evolution had been more than quantitative. As peacekeeping operations had become increasingly multidimensional. That had highlighted the need for a more integrated approach and a greater degree of civil-military coordination, as well as coordination between the United Nations and other international actors. The World Summit had recognized that evolution and had placed a responsibility on all players to effect the necessary change. The European Union looked forward to making its contribution to that end and wished to highlight four areas that it saw as a priority for the coming 12 months: enhancing the United Nations operational capability; cooperation and capacity-building with regional organizations and actors; building a sustainable peace; and the question of misconduct.

3. The European Union fully supported the World Summit decision to endorse the creation of an initial operating capability for a standing police capacity, which would both provide a start-up capability for the policing component of peacekeeping missions and assist existing missions through the provision of advice and expertise. The European Union looked forward to that concept becoming operational in July 2006.

4. The World Summit had also urged further development of proposals for enhanced rapidly deployable capacities to reinforce peacekeeping operations in crisis. The European Union looked forward to the development of a detailed proposal for consideration at the next session of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations; that proposal would need to complement the efforts of the European Union and other regional entities concerning rapid deployment, standby and bridging capacities. As part of that work, the European Union welcomed the comprehensive review of the United Nations Standby Arrangements System announced the day before, with the objective of making it a genuinely usable tool for generating rapidly deployable forces.

5. The events of the past 12 months in the Democratic Republic of the Congo had demonstrated the need for the United Nations to have an effective information-gathering capability at the operational level to ensure the safety and security of its personnel and implement its mandate. It was regrettable that it had still not been possible to implement fully the Joint Mission Analysis Cell concept across all United Nations missions. Now that the Department of Safety and Security had established itself, the European Union would welcome greater clarity on the division of responsibility between it and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations at both the operational and the strategic levels.

6. With regard to cooperation with regional organizations and actors, and capacity-building, the Summit had recognized the important contribution of regional organizations to peace and security, and the need to forge predictable relationships with the United Nations pursuant to Chapter VIII of its Charter. The European Union's Operation Artemis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2003 had clearly demonstrated the engagement of the European Union in support of more effective multilateralism through the development of its crisis management capabilities. The vital role played by the African Union mission in

Darfur over the past 12 months had provided a clear example both of the need for such strategic partnerships and of their potential for peace.

7. The European Union was fully committed to the continued development of the EU-UN joint declaration on crisis management. It believed that there was scope for enhanced cooperation and partnership in a range of areas, such as rapid deployment, shared doctrine, planning expertise and training. The dialogue on cross-cutting issues such as the rule of law, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, security sector reform, and gender could also be enhanced.

8. A related issue was capacity-building for the African Union and the African subregional organizations, at the Summit support had been expressed for the development and implementation of a 10-year plan. The European Union was continuing to contribute both to the African Union mission in the Sudan and to wider African Union capacity-building through the Peace Facility, with 98 million euros committed to date. It was essential, however, to ensure that such efforts were coordinated, and above all were delivering what the African Union required.

9. As the World Summit had recognized, development, peace and security and human rights were interlinked and mutually reinforcing. The European Union strongly believed that if a sustainable peace was to be built, peacebuilding activities needed to start from the very outset, alongside traditional peacekeeping activities. Unfortunately, the peacebuilding efforts of the international community had all too often been marked by piecemeal and uncoordinated action, lacking in national ownership, which had eventually resulted in a relapse into conflict. The Peacebuilding Commission, which world leaders at the Summit had agreed to establish, was intended to fill those gaps. The European Union was eager to see the Commission established by the end of the year and trusted that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations would play a full role in support of the work of the Commission and the Peacebuilding Support Office.

10. A key element in ensuring more coherent activity in United Nations missions was integrated mission planning. The European Union welcomed the work that was now being taken forward by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the United Nations Development Group and the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs to define a model for integrated planning and strengthen capacity for such planning and thus ensure that the development and humanitarian agencies and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations could plan more effectively together. The European Union also called upon the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to enter into a dialogue with potential troop contributors much earlier in the development of an operation in order to facilitate national military planning and thereby shorten deployment times.

11. Turning to the topic of misconduct, he said that the European Union condemned in the strongest terms all acts of sexual abuse and exploitation committed by United Nations peacekeeping personnel. It welcomed the recent proposal to amend memoranda of understanding to reflect the responsibilities of troop-contributing countries. However, while there had been some welcome progress, sexual exploitation and abuse remained a significant problem in many missions. Both the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the troop-contributing countries needed to do much more to implement the decisions taken earlier in the year in the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, including enforcement of the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy. Member States must do their utmost to solve the problem, with transparency. Otherwise, they would be risking the success of the missions and jeopardizing the future of United Nations peacekeeping.

12. A crucial factor in preventing misconduct was capacity-building in the area of human rights and the widespread mainstreaming of gender awareness across peacekeeping missions. Systematic change was needed so that gender issues were included in pre-mission planning and mission implementation, as well as — crucially — in the post-mission phase. The European Union urged the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to work with the United Nations country team to ensure that, when a peacekeeping mission withdrew, sufficient human rights and gender expertise remained in the country to assist the national Government.

13. Finally, the European Union welcomed the proposal of the Bureau of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations for a more interactive committee process in the coming session, as well as the announcement by the Under-Secretary-General that a review of the structure and operation of the Department

of Peacekeeping Operations would be carried out to ensure that it was equipped and ready for the challenges that lay ahead.

14. **Ms. El Alaoui** (Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, said that it was the Movement's consistent position that peacekeeping operations must abide strictly by the guiding principles articulated in the Final Documents of the XI Ministerial Conference in Cairo, the Kuala Lumpur Non-Aligned Movement Summit of 2003 and the Durban Ministerial Conference of 2004 and as set out in paragraphs 22 to 35 of the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/59/19/Rev.1). The Non-Aligned Movement continued to hold that peacekeeping operations should strictly observe the purposes and principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and those that had evolved to govern peacekeeping and had become basic peacekeeping principles, namely the consent of the parties, the non-use of force except in self-defence and in the defence of a mandate authorized by the Security Council, impartiality, clearly defined mandates and secure financing. It also emphasized the need to maintain respect for the principles of the sovereign equality, political independence and territorial integrity of all States and non-intervention in matters that were essentially within their domestic jurisdiction.

15. The Movement continued to believe that United Nations peacekeeping operations should not be used as a substitute for addressing the root causes of conflict in a coherent, well-planned, coordinated and comprehensive manner, with relevant political, social, economic and developmental instruments. It further maintained that the United Nations should give serious consideration to ensuring that those efforts could continue without interruption after the departure of a peacekeeping mission, so as to ensure a smooth transition to lasting peace, security and development.

16. The Non-Aligned Movement reiterated its longstanding position that the role of regional peacekeeping arrangements should be in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, rather than supplant the role of the United Nations or circumvent the full application of the guiding principles of United Nations peacekeeping. With that understanding, however, the Movement wished to underline the importance of the contribution that regional arrangements could make, and to stress the importance of lending the necessary support to those regional capacities, particularly in Africa, by identifying and implementing practical means for partnerships as reflected in the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/59/19/Rev.1) and as highlighted in the World Summit Outcome. Consequently, it supported the efforts of the United Nations to augment its support to the African Union's endeavours to develop a capacity to undertake peacekeeping operations in Africa. The complementary role of regional arrangements should not, however, lead to the fragmentation of United Nations peacekeeping operations.

17. The Non-Aligned Movement condemned in the strongest terms the killing of peacekeepers in several missions, urging that the safety and security of United Nations peacekeepers and associated personnel operating in the field should be accorded the highest priority. Security must not be viewed as a stand alone function or be narrowly defined; rather it had to be seen as a function cutting across all activities, from planning to contingency response, and thus forming an integral part of mandate implementation.

18. The Movement welcomed the continuing emphasis on rapid and effective deployment. There had been significant improvement in recent years, as evidenced by the existence of the Strategic Deployment Stocks and the pre-mandate commitment authority; without those significant innovations it would not have been possible to deploy new missions in recent years.

19. The Movement had been a strong proponent of enhanced cooperation among the troop-contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat. That could be achieved through a better understanding of each other's concerns, in particular, those of the troop-contributing countries, which were best placed to convey a first-hand assessment of the situation on the ground. Troop-contributing countries should be involved early and fully in all stages of mission planning, and there should also be a greater interface with the Security Council, through the reactivation of the Security Council's Working Group of the Whole on Peacekeeping Operations. Moreover, the dialogue between the troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat should be intensified so that the Secretariat could report appropriately to the Security Council.

20. The Non-Aligned Movement shared the Secretary-General's deep sense of concern over the cases of sexual exploitation and abuse by United

Nations personnel involved in peacekeeping operations. The distinguished and honourable record of accomplishment in United Nations peacekeeping was being tarnished by the acts of a few individuals. All measures must be adopted to stamp out completely the menace from mission areas. The Movement fully endorsed the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy with regard to the conduct of United Nations personnel, and would work towards the full implementation of the measures adopted in the relevant General Assembly resolutions.

21. Finally, the Non-Aligned Movement wished to pay tribute to the courage and dedication of the personnel working in the field and of those who had lost their lives while upholding the Organization's values and objectives, and it called for a comprehensive study into why so many peacekeepers were being killed in the field.

22. **Mr. Hassan** (Jordan) said that the capacity of the United Nations in the area of the rule of law, both within the Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Unit in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and in the field needed to be enhanced. His delegation continued to believe that the best approach to the issue would be through an entity within the United Nations Secretariat specializing in the field of the rule of law and transitional justice. The Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Support Office had an important role to play.

23. The members of the Security Council themselves should be doing more to participate in peacekeeping operations, particularly in providing personnel in the field. Furthermore, Security Council intervention should be swift in situations where United Nations peacekeepers were impeded from fully implementing their mandate, or were endangered as a result of such impediments. Of particular concern to his delegation was a situation in which a country hosting a peacekeeping mission undertook unilateral actions that curtailed the fulfilment of the mandate and/or endangered the peacekeepers it was hosting.

24. His Government welcomed the creation of a standing police capacity, and looked forward to contributing to that framework, which had been endorsed in the World Summit Outcome. It also wished to reiterate the importance of adopting the measures outlined in the recommendations of the Secretary-General's adviser on sexual exploitation and abuse. Progress in that area had been seen at the extraordinary meeting of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations held earlier in the year, and his delegation looked forward to further discussions of the achievements and difficulties at its next meeting.

25. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations had requested that a comprehensive assessment should be prepared on the potential use of all forms of technical monitoring and surveillance, in particular aerial monitoring capabilities, as a means of ensuring the safety of peacekeepers, particularly in volatile and dangerous conditions and situations too dangerous for visual monitoring from the ground. He would be interested to hear an update from the Under-Secretary-General on the progress made in preparing that assessment, which should be part of the Secretary-General's report for the next meeting of the Special Committee.

26. All Member States should pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions, in a manner that reaffirmed their obligation under Article 17 of the Charter to bear the expenses of the Organization as apportioned by the General Assembly, bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the permanent members of the Security Council, as stipulated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV).

27. **Ms. Alvarez** (Cuba) stressed the importance of respecting the principles which governed the Organization's peacekeeping obligations: consent of the parties, impartiality, the non-use of force except in self-defence, compliance with General Assembly resolutions, a clear mandate and solid funding. Furthermore, in order to maintain the Organization's authority and effectiveness, the Security Council must not act selectively or apply double standards when establishing peacekeeping operations, in particular in Africa.

28. The establishment of peacekeeping operations should not disregard the analysis of the root causes of conflicts, which were usually related to the underdevelopment and exploitation of the third world countries and their exclusion from the international decision-making process. Only the adoption of a comprehensive long-term sustainable strategy could ensure development and put an end to the vicious cycle of conflicts and peacekeeping operations, with their unprecedented human and material costs.

29. The need to provide humanitarian assistance should not be used as a justification for doubtful concepts such as so-called humanitarian intervention when the mandate of peacekeeping operations was defined. Such concepts had their origin in the developed countries and reinterpreted international law, violating the principle of the sovereignty of States and the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations in order to serve the interventionist interests of powerful countries which were seeking to impose a world government.

30. Dynamic mechanisms should be developed for establishing and deploying peacekeeping operations but that process must be transparent and inclusive, in accordance with Articles 100 and 101 of the Charter of the United Nations. She noted that developing countries which wished to participate in peacekeeping operations often did not have the necessary capacity, whereas the developed countries had the capacity but not the political will to do so. It was therefore urgent that the Organization should ensure that peacekeeping operations were provided with the resources they required.

31. Cooperation among troop-contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat must be further strengthened. The Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations should hold more frequent meetings with troop-contributing countries, in particular in the initial phases of planning. She called on Member States to pay their contributions in full, on time and without conditions, so that troop-contributing countries could be paid in a timely manner; delays in such payments could cause serious economic problems, especially in the developing countries. Finally, she said that peacekeeping operations were not an end in themselves but should create the conditions necessary for sustainable development and a fair and lasting peace.

32. **Mr. Ali Ahmad** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the peacekeeping successes of the past five years had affirmed the status and legitimacy of the United Nations as the principal multilateral institution with sole responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Despite the complexity of the role, peacekeeping had proved to be an effective, vital and efficient tool in tackling the dangers to peace and security in various parts of the world. It was not, however, an alternative to the permanent resolution of conflict, but a temporary measure designed to establish a firm basis for the gradual transition to peacebuilding. It was therefore regrettable that United Nations peacekeeping operations had been ongoing for more than half a century in the Middle East, where peace remained elusive owing to Israel's continuing occupation of Arab territories. He paid tribute, however, to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) and their good relations with his country.

33. He reiterated the importance of such matters as the need for rapid deployment, the payment of peacekeeping arrears and respect for peacekeeping values, including strict compliance with operational mandates and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. In addition, peacekeeping mandates should be clearly credible, viable and legitimate, involving no selectivity or double standards. As for the difficulties facing current and future peacekeeping operations, his delegation was fully prepared to participate in any further discussions for their resolution. He strongly condemned the killing of peacekeepers, whose sacrifice he recognized, and underlined the need to strengthen security measures at the premises of United Nations peacekeeping missions. The establishment of a genuine partnership among the Security Council, the Secretariat and States contributing forces was instrumental to the planning, preparation and organization of missions. Lastly, he requested clarification as to why the web site of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations was available in all official languages of the United Nations except Arabic; that was a clear breach of the General Assembly directives concerning the goal of total language parity.

34. **Mr. Løvald** (Norway) said that the recent World Summit Outcome recognized the importance of peacekeeping operations. The capacity of the United Nations to plan, conduct and sustain operations must be reviewed, owing to the increased complexity of mission mandates and the greater number of missions. Many missions did not have adequate resources to supervise the implementation of fragile peace agreements and to deal with armed groups which threatened both peacekeepers and civilians. The planning and operational capacity of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations must therefore be strengthened. He welcomed the Under-Secretary-General's ideas regarding the reorganization of the

Department, but said that the need might not be so much a question of increasing personnel and resources as of making the uniformed component stronger and more visible and ensuring maximum flexibility in the use of existing resources. A tighter military command structure would have operational benefits. Better intelligence at the tactical and operational level was vital, and United Nations personnel must be guaranteed freedom of movement. He noted with concern the increasing tendency to restrict the latter.

35. He endorsed the creation of a standing police capacity and said that the planning element should be strengthened and enhanced assistance should be provided at the start-up of new missions. The Norwegian Police Directorate had recently met with representatives of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to discuss how Norway could assist in the establishment of that capacity. The reform of the security sector in its entirety was a priority, and he stressed the importance of local ownership of the process; to be truly successful, the process must include reform and rebuilding of not only the civilian police but also of the judiciary, the prison service and even the armed forces.

36. Peacebuilding, based on the integrated mission approach, was far more demanding than peacekeeping and the United Nations must continue to play a leading role in the stabilization and rebuilding of failed or failing States. The integrated mission approach must be applied with flexibility, with special attention being given to the need to avoid unnecessarily hindering humanitarian action. He welcomed the decision by the 2005 World Summit to establish a Peacebuilding Commission and a peacebuilding support office, which would further strengthen the integrated approach and involve relevant actors to an even greater extent, both at Headquarters and in the field.

37. In recognition of the contribution to peace and security which could be made by regional organizations, he called for an interlocking system of peacekeeping capacities. His Government was working actively within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to support an enhanced relationship between the latter and the United Nations; that was even more important given the increasingly global engagement of NATO, for example its support of the African Union mission in Darfur. He welcomed the proposed establishment of an African standby force, which his Government was supporting through the United Nations Standby High Readiness Brigade (SHIRBRIG); contacts had likewise been established at both the regional and the subregional levels with the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

38. The many initiatives for African capacity-building must be coordinated in order to ensure that resources were used in the most efficient manner. There was also a need to avoid overloading the African Union, whose resources were already stretched owing to its engagement in Darfur. Some capacity-building could be done through the Internet, for example the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) project for African peacekeepers, to which his Government had recently made a financial contribution. His Government had also decided to expand its training for peace programme to the whole of Africa south of the Sahara, focusing on the training of civilian personnel, including police, and, in cooperation with the African Union, the development of a standby capacity for civilian personnel. Further cooperation would also be discussed with ECOWAS and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), which were assessing the need for civilian personnel for peace operations.

39. He welcomed the seriousness with which the Organization was addressing sexual exploitation and abuse, but expressed concern about the number of new cases. The conduct of some individuals must not be allowed to undermine the credibility of the Organization. Troop-contributing countries were responsible for informing personnel about United Nations rules and for prosecuting those who broke them; it was unacceptable that United Nations investigators were being hindered in their work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo by troop-contributing countries. His Government had contributed US$ 500,000 to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for the investigation and prosecution of criminal acts committed by United Nations peacekeeping personnel.

40. The issue of sexual misconduct was closely linked to the wider issue of women, peace and security and the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). It was important to use available gender expertise more effectively in order to gain a better understanding of the societies and peoples that the peace processes were trying to help. He looked forward to the forthcoming public debate on Security Council

resolution 1325 (2000) in the hope that it would result in constructive suggestions for action, including action in the area of peacekeeping. His Government was strongly committed to strengthening the role of the United Nations in the world community and would increase its civilian as well as military contributions to United Nations peacekeeping operations.

41. **Mr. Chaimongkol** (Thailand) said that conflicts had a tremendous effect on innocent civilians, and that peacekeeping operations played an essential role in creating and maintaining a safe environment in conflict areas. The political will of all parties concerned was, however, the key to successful peacebuilding. He recalled that the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand, in his recent statement to the General Assembly, had urged all parties to cooperate with the United Nations peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts.

42. A successful peacekeeping operation required that a comprehensive plan encompassing peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding as well as an exit strategy, should be developed before deployment. The cooperation of regional and subregional organizations with United Nations operations was also important and should be given priority and supporting resources should be supplied if necessary. He noted that his Government had made a commitment to the United Nations standby arrangements; it also supported the concept of establishing a standing police capacity in order to restore the rule of law and ensure a timely response to crises. He stressed, however, that the standing police capacity should have the necessary capability to operate effectively in both post-conflict and pre-conflict environments.

43. He reiterated his Government's support for the investigation of sexual exploitation and abuse, including the appointment of national investigation officers from troop-contributing countries to work with the Office of Internal Oversight Services. The Royal Thai Armed Forces provided pre-training courses on the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse for troops prior to their participation in peace missions, and strictly prohibited sexual misconduct with the local population; violators would be severely punished.

44. **Mr. Kheong** (Singapore) said that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations had performed well in meeting the tremendous challenge of the increase in peacekeeping operations in recent years. That increase had led to a discussion of enhanced capacities and robust peacekeeping in terms of an increase in resources, but he stressed that such resources were not unlimited and that the Organization must be creative in finding sustainable solutions for peacekeeping requirements.

45. Peacekeepers on the whole had served the Organization with courage and dedication, but he expressed disappointment over reports of sexual abuse and misconduct by some peacekeepers in the field; that had damaged the credibility of all peacekeepers as protectors of innocent civilians and stained the reputation of the United Nations. It was urgent to take tough and resolute action to address the problem of misconduct and poor discipline.

46. He supported the five priorities identified by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and welcomed the establishment of Joint Mission Analysis Cells (JMAC), the Joint Operations Centre (JOC), and integrated demobilization, disarmament and reintegration standards, the preparation of strategic deployment stocks and the strengthening of police capacity.

47. During his visits to United Nations peacekeeping missions, he had been struck by the professionalism of many peacekeepers but had noted some frustration at the lack of support and resources. In that context, he said that strong leadership at all levels was essential if peacekeeping missions were to succeed. It was important to select and train senior leaders, including special representatives of the Secretary-General, force commanders and police commissioners early, without waiting for an approved mandate. That would create a pool of senior personnel who could be rotated to observe missions or could be assembled early to build appropriate team dynamics before deployment. Following a mission, they could remain to advise and train others. More resources must therefore be allocated to the training of middle and senior-level leaders who could make a critical difference to the outcome of any peacekeeping operation.

48. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations must strive to achieve better integration across a wide spectrum of agencies. Peacekeepers and peacebuilders were inseparable partners. Their efforts in countries emerging from conflict must be synchronized and their work managed as a single operation, with integrated planning, allocation of resources, training and force

preparations, security management and operations. There must be a greater sharing of information among various stakeholders in order to produce integrated plans for the future.

49. The Department must function responsively, and the ethos of responsiveness to missions must similarly be instilled in other departments, such as the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Public Information and the future Peacebuilding Support Office. The Department's current work processes and structures needed to be critically reviewed and adjusted and better coordination was required. It was vital to improve the structures so that the thousands of peacekeepers on the ground would be provided with appropriate management and support.

50. Peacekeeping missions were successful when they created an environment conducive to local capacity-building. Keeping the peace took time, building national capacities took time, and reconciliation took time. The international community must adopt realistic expectations as to the time-line required to achieve successful peacekeeping, and must be prepared to stay the course.

51. **Mr. Hunger** (Switzerland) welcomed the endorsement by the World Summit of an initial operating capability for a standing police capacity, and initiation by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of a consultation process with troop-contributing countries concerning the establishment of a strategic reserve. The logistical organization of peacekeeping operations needed to be improved and troops must be adequately equipped, especially for peacekeeping operations in Africa. Member States should be encouraged and assisted to transfer unemployed stocks of equipment to those countries which faced difficulties in that area.

52. Sexual abuse and exploitation constituted violations of human rights and damaged the credibility of United Nations missions. A policy of zero tolerance towards such acts must be pursued. He welcomed the deployment of national investigation officers under the authority of the Office of Internal Oversight Services but urged the Department to ensure that members of missions received appropriate training with regard to the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation. Basic training on human rights and international humanitarian law should become a mandatory part of the national training given to all peacekeeping personnel, and he hoped that the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations would support that recommendation.

53. There was a general shift from peacekeeping operations to more comprehensive peacebuilding missions. The peacekeeping process involved close interaction between peacebuilding operations and personnel, on the one hand, and key policy domains and actors in the field, on the other. To be successful, therefore, the process had to be led by the national authorities. The Peacebuilding Commission could foster mutual understanding among all actors in the field by clarifying concepts, developing joint strategies, and thus facilitating coordination and greater synergies. The Commission should be a purely advisory body, competent to advise all relevant United Nations entities whenever necessary, while the Department of Peacekeeping Operations would play a crucial role in making the Commission's recommendations operational and implementing them. To perform that role adequately the Department might require additional capacities, as well as improved know-how on civil-military cooperation.

54. The latest session of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations had been disappointing in terms of both substance and procedure. The Bureau and the members of the Committee should consider ways to improve its working methods. There should be a clear distinction between formal and informal debates, with facilitators elected to facilitate informal discussions on controversial issues. Consideration should also be given to updating the agenda and the structure of the report.

55. **Mr. Kitaoka** (Japan) noted that the budgetary burden of peacekeeping operations on Member States had increased dramatically owing to the expanding number of operations as well as unplanned changes such as extended duration of operations. His country was contributing to both peacekeeping operations and peacebuilding. As one of the largest contributors of financial resources, it urged more effective and efficient performance and vigorous implementation of management reform in the area.

56. Peacekeeping operations were also changing in qualitative terms, for example in their association with peacebuilding. Member States should consider how an effective proposal could be developed from the various options for enhancing rapidly deployable capacities.

One option was to enhance cooperation between missions. Under the chairmanship of Japan, the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping had held a joint meeting with troop-contributing countries and Combined Joint Task Forces. Potential problems concerning the implementation of inter-mission cooperation had been identified, and it would certainly be possible to resolve some of them.

57. The United Nations could support the rapid deployment arrangements of regional organizations by providing training, equipment and other capacity-building assistance to the troops of their member States. It would thus become increasingly possible to deploy regional troops in emergencies. Such efforts might be more effective than the provision of support to regional organizations through other, for example bilateral, channels. He intended to submit a proposal on inter-mission cooperation as a means of effectively enhancing rapidly deployable capacities.

58. The reports of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations had emphasized the need to improve the interaction between troop-contributing countries and the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations. Three joint meetings with troop-contributing countries and Combined Joint Task Forces had been held in the course of the year since Japan had assumed the chairmanship of the Working Group. Those meetings had addressed the establishment of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS), sexual exploitation and abuse issues with special attention to the United Nations Observer Mission in the Congo (MONUC), and inter-mission cooperation with a special focus on West African peacekeeping operations.

59. **Mr. Kazykhanov** (Kazakhstan) said that it was vital to enhance cooperation among Member States, United Nations agencies and regional organizations in order to prevent and settle armed conflicts and address global problems such as international terrorism, drug trafficking, transnational organized crime, poverty, disease, environmental degradation and natural disasters. He shared the view that human rights violations and lack of respect for the rule of law represented a threat to peace and security. It was important to remember that, while States themselves had the primary responsibility for the maintenance of security, the international community was also responsible if a State could not protect its own citizens. The global nature of terrorism required an urgent, effective and comprehensive response by the international community, including the strengthening of the international legal framework.

60. The effective mobilization of existing resources and the establishment of a rapid deployment mechanism would play an important role in the success of United Nations peacekeeping efforts. He therefore supported the establishment of the intergovernmental Peacebuilding Commission, the standing Peacebuilding Fund and the Peacebuilding Support Office. His Government regularly advised the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of its willingness to provide elements of its peacekeeping battalion for peacekeeping operations. He supported the concept of a standing reserve of United Nations civilian police and a strategic peacekeeping reserve. The proposal to establish closer cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations which possessed the capacity to prevent conflicts and maintain peace and the proposal regarding the creation of regional centres to train international peacekeepers should be given serious consideration. His Government would be interested in sending its personnel to such training centres on a regular basis. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations should actively promote the regional capacity for peacebuilding.

61. Commending the efforts of the Organization to incorporate mechanisms for protecting civilians in armed conflicts into the peacekeeping mandates, he noted that the current armed conflicts were mostly intrastate conflicts, often involving violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. It was important that peacekeeping operations should comply strictly with the principles and purposes of the United Nations, in particular the principles of consent by the parties involved and the non-use of force except in self-defence. He was profoundly concerned about the reports of sexual abuse by peacekeepers and welcomed the appointment of an adviser on the issue.

62. **Mr. Maleki** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that, as a member of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, his country continued to emphasize the principle that the United Nations was responsible for maintaining international peace; peacekeeping operations were one of its main instruments in discharging that responsibility. It welcomed any plan — such as the initiative to enhance the Organization's rapid-deployment capability — aimed at raising the

operational effectiveness of those operations. The representation of States participating in such activities should improve, in keeping with General Assembly resolutions. International peace and security should be promoted in accordance with the basic principles, namely the consent of the parties, the non-use of force except in self-defence, impartiality, and respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States. Peacekeeping operations should not be used to deal with the root causes of conflicts, which should be addressed in a coordinated and comprehensive manner through political, social and developmental instruments. The capacity and capability of troop-contributing countries should be enhanced through the exchange of experience, the dissemination of best practices, and training, including the establishment of regional training centres. The contribution of regional arrangements to United Nations peacekeeping operations should be only temporary and should be complementary; they could not absolve the Organization of its responsibility — under its Charter — for the maintenance of peace.

63. No peacekeeping operation tainted by misconduct could be successful. All United Nations personnel must safeguard the Organization's credibility. The Secretary-General, who had taken significant steps against sexual exploitation and abuse, should pay increased attention to the issue of misconduct. His delegation supported the establishment of "conduct and discipline units" at Headquarters and in the field by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. It welcomed the report on the elimination of sexual exploitation and abuse (A/59/710) and the investigation by the Office of Internal Oversight Services into allegations of misconduct in the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC). It encouraged the Department to take into consideration the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (A/59/661). Some of the punitive measures recommended by the Office, however, should be applied only if allegations were fully substantiated. The honour of troop-contributing countries should not be impugned. He paid tribute to the courage, service and sacrifice of the vast majority of peacekeeping personnel, including civilian police and military observers, whose safety should continue to be a priority.

64. **Mr. Simkin** (Australia), speaking also on behalf of New Zealand and Canada, said that Member States should capitalize on the initiatives welcomed at the recent World Summit, and continue to address sexual exploitation and abuse problems, as well as some technical issues. With regard to the World Summit initiatives, the Peacebuilding Commission was designed to fill a gap. As the Secretary-General had pointed out, roughly half of all the countries that emerged from war lapsed back into violence within five years. The Commission could coordinate international efforts to promote the rule of law, build capacities and ensure a seamless transition from peacekeeping operations to the nation-building phase. Member States had been urged to agree to adopt the modalities for the operation of the Peacebuilding Commission by 31 December 2005. He strongly supported the Secretary-General's recommendation that any State should be able to request the Commission's assistance. Recognition of the responsibility of the international community to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity was another major outcome of the Summit, and the peacekeeping community, represented by the Fourth Committee, should begin the studies, doctrine development and training necessary to give effect to that concept on the ground and endorse early action.

65. The reform of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations could take place only in concert with other Summit initiatives, as part of an integrated and holistic approach to peacekeeping. Integration within the Department and the field missions was crucial, over and above linkages aimed at promoting development and good governance. The concepts of an integrated mission task force (IMTF) and integrated mission planning process (IMPP) had not yet been implemented in a comprehensive manner. Enhanced integration at Headquarters would inevitably lead to enhanced integration in the field, not only through the Joint Operations Centre (JOC) and the Joint Mission Assessment Cell (JMAC), but also in the overall planning and execution of a mission's mandates. Moreover, clear articulation of operational principles and procedures by the Department would improve peacekeeping action as a whole. Doctrinal clarification, based on work related to standardized training modules and reinforced through a terminology development workshop, would spur further development of training activities. Standardized training modules had contributed significantly to the readiness of national military personnel for blue-helmet deployment, but

broader complementary training for police and civilians still remained to be developed. As a result, the vision of a fully integrated mission was unfulfilled. Accordingly, the Department's integrated training service project should be more actively pursued. Furthermore, the development of proposals to enhance the Organization's rapid deployment capability would benefit from the participation of many Member States in the relevant working groups. Lastly, the creation of a standing police capacity would facilitate early integrated planning and provide the necessary expertise in the field during the crucial early months of a mission.

66. The problem of sexual exploitation and abuse was a matter of concern. Persons deployed on United Nations peace operations should be held to the highest standards of conduct and discipline. Vigorous short-term measures should be pursued to maintain the momentum generated by the report on the elimination of such misconduct (A/59/710), building on the steps already taken by the Secretary-General and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. A group of legal experts and Member States should discuss longer-term mechanisms to ensure the effective investigation of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse and, where appropriate, prosecution. The Department's current focus on gender mainstreaming throughout its operations, in keeping with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), would contribute to the elimination of sexual exploitation and abuse. Furthermore, the issue of the discriminatory remuneration treatment of staff officers in United Nations missions relative to military observers, police and civilians was an issue that required an expeditious and satisfactory solution. Lastly, in order to improve the quality of personnel provided by Member States for deployment on field missions, particularly as military observers, the tasks to be performed should be identified and appropriate skill profiles should be developed.

67. **Mr. Acharya** (Nepal) said that peacekeeping operations, which had become a main function of the United Nations, had contributed significantly to building the image of the Organization as an effective mechanism for the maintenance of peace around the world. United Nations peacekeepers intervened in war zones to save lives, restore peace and order and pave the way to nation building through reconstruction. The demand for United Nations peacekeepers had surged; more than 80,000 military, police and civilian personnel were currently serving in 18 peacekeeping operations worldwide. Nepal had participated in United Nations peacekeeping operations since 1958; it had contributed more than 50,000 peacekeepers and was one of the top five troop-contributing countries. The recent World Summit had commended the contribution of United Nations peacekeepers to conflict resolution. The United Nations should continue to play a central role in conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. The growing number of United Nations peacekeepers killed, however, raised the issue of safety. From mission planning to deployment and operation, every effort should be made to ensure the safety of peacekeepers, and there should be a minimum acceptable casualty limit for each mission. Full medical treatment and speedy repatriation should be available for wounded or sick United Nations peacekeepers. Moreover, timely disbursement of budgeted funds, the prompt reimbursement of expenses incurred by troop-contributing countries and adequate coordination between field activities and Headquarters were essential for the success of peacekeeping missions.

68. The Security Council, troop-contributing countries and host countries should cooperate closely. The Security Council should have a permanent and transparent mechanism to ensure the participation of troop-contributing countries in decision-making at all stages, from planning through the winding-up phase. The percentage of senior management posts at Headquarters and in the field staffed with officers from troop-contributing developing countries should be increased. His delegation supported the proposal for an enhanced rapidly deployable capacity and believed that the strategic reserves concept introduced by the Department merited serious consideration.

69. The cases of sexual exploitation and abuse committed by a few members of United Nations peacekeeping missions, had tarnished the image of those missions and his delegation fully supported the Secretary-General's zero tolerance policy and the recommendations contained in the report on the subject (A/59/710). Lastly, in order to avoid a relapse into violence, follow-up on a peacekeeping operation should be built into the modalities for the Peacebuilding Commission.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.